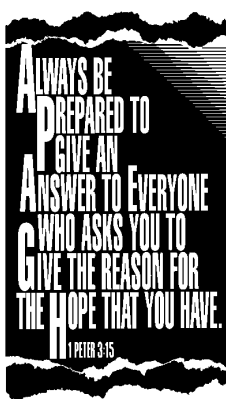




Dear friends in Christ Jesus

As this Foot Print is distributed, Foothills is hosting the annual youth gathering for our regional congregations. Pastor Eric will be leading the presentation, based on 1 Peter 3:15-16:

“But in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect, having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame.” (1 Peter 3:15–16, ESV)



How important it is that we be ready to speak about the hope that is in us! I know that most people don't seem to care, but there has never been a time when the message of God's grace and truth in Jesus Christ has been so needed. Our world continues to move further and further from God's truth given to us in the Holy Scriptures. We see a growing opposition to the Church and its message of truth from God's Word. It is opposition to God's revealed truth that lies behind the brutal persecution of Christians throughout the world. It is opposition to God's truth that allows abortion, euthanasia, homosexuality and marital infidelity to be accepted in our

society. It is opposition to God's truth that has let the pornography industry grow into one of the most profitable businesses in our world today. And it is opposition to God's truth that causes people to become angry and bitter with Christians who dare to speak the truth, no matter how lovingly they may speak it.

Jesus never hid the truth from His disciples. He tells them quite frankly: *“And you will be hated by all for my name's sake. But the one who endures to the end will be saved.”* (Mark 13:13, ESV) I can't remember or find any place where Jesus promises that people are going to like the truth we need to proclaim. He does say that people will hate the message of sin and righteousness. But we still need to proclaim His truth to a lost and dying world.

I remember being involved some years ago in the *Life Chain*, a witness to the sanctity of life. It is a silent witness, simply holding a sign that declares the value of life from conception. As we stood holding our signs, there were those who drove by and beeped their horns in support, who waved, and who gave us a “thumbs up”. But there were also a number of people who drove by and saluted us in a far different way—a way that our world

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Foothills Lutheran

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Continued on page 2...

...Continued from page 1

understands all too well as a derogatory insult. One lady yelled something about our stupidity, along with some other things I would never dare repeat. It was a very vivid reminder, in a rather small way, of what Jesus said when He sent His disciples out to share the good news. As He sent them out He warned them: *"If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign those of his household."* (Matthew 10:25, ESV) He was reminding them that those who have nothing good to say about Jesus will not say anything good about His followers.

As the church of God, we need to remember that God does not call us to a life of ease, but to a life of service in the ministry of the Gospel. He calls us to proclaim His law that points out the sin and evil of men's hearts. He also calls us to proclaim the forgiveness and life that God so freely gives through faith in Jesus Christ, who died to pay for all sins, and lives to be the Way to life for all who trust in Him. Yes, we need to get out, to stand on street corners; to share with others in our neighbourhood—to do whatever we can to let God's Word of truth and life be heard in our world. But we dare not forget the second part of Peter's encouragement: *"yet do it with gentleness and respect, having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame."* (1 Peter 3:15–16, ESV)

It isn't easy being different. It isn't popular to have an opinion based not on our own desires, but on God's will for us. But we need to cling to His Word and to live in it ourselves. And we need to share it. I am glad that we are going to encourage our youth to give the best defence for God's truth. I pray that it gives them the tools they need to stand firm in God's truth in the midst of this unbelieving generation. Who knows? They may help someone else turn from sin and the stubborn unbelief of their own heart to the forgiving, life changing truth of God! And what joy their will be in heaven when that happens!

Serving with You in His truth,

Pastor Bode



Pastor Bode has "inherited" some piano music – some old books and sheet music. He is looking to give it a home, and if you play or are learning to play, all it takes is a quick request,

and it is yours! Let Pastor know if he can share the wealth with you!

November Mission of the Month

FLC Youth

This upcoming summer is the LCC National Youth Gathering in Abbotsford B.C July 5-9 and we are already looking forward to attending this event next summer. The cost of JUST the registration for the event is \$495 per youth. With the cost being as high as it is and with some of our families having multiple youth able to attend we have made November's mission of the month all about supporting our youth attending this awesome event. Also over the last number of years our youth group has grown. It's grown to the point where our goal (and it isn't that out of reach) is to take 20 youth to the NYG. That's right 20. Which means that our goal is raise \$10,000 during November's mission of the month. Help us support our youth attending 2019's National Youth Gathering, so that no youth has to say they can't go because they can't afford it.

-Pastor Eric

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Children & Family Ministry

SUNDAY SCHOOL

"How sweet are your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth!" Psalm 119:103

We are well under way in our Sunday School year, and enjoy seeing the faces of our children every Sunday! We are continuing our chronological study of key Scripture accounts, and in November will begin to look at what Jesus teaches us. Every lesson points us Him, encouraging us to place our trust in Him.

We meet Sunday mornings at 9:00 am in the Sanctuary for our opening, after which children will be dismissed to their classes. Their class time will end by 10:05 so that families have time to prepare for worship.

We will once again be working on the presentation of Jesus' birth in our annual children's service. This year's service, **"My Dear Lord Gave to Me"** will be held during our regular worship time on **Sunday, December 9th**. Rehearsals are scheduled for Saturday, December 1st at 1:00 pm and Saturday, December 8th at 10:00 am. Following the December 8th rehearsal, children are invited to stay for a hot dog lunch and a craft time, allowing their parents a bit more time for Christmas shopping. Please let Deaconess Miriam know if your children will be staying after rehearsal.

Parents! You are encouraged to attend Adult Bible Study while your children are in Sunday School. If you have children not yet Sunday School age, you are welcome to bring your little ones along to Adult study, upstairs in the Fellowship Hall.

Our lessons for November and December are:

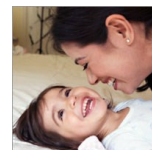
Nov. 4	Jesus is Anointed	Luke 7:36-50
Nov. 11	Jesus Feeds Five Thousand	John 6:1-14
Nov. 18	The Transfiguration	Matthew 17:1-9
Nov. 25	Jesus Sends the Seventy -Two	Luke 10:1-24
Dec. 2	The Good Samaritan	Luke 10:25-37
Dec. 9	The Good Shepherd	John 10:1-18
Dec. 16	Jesus Teaches Us to Pray	Luke 11:1-13; John 16:23-33
Dec. 23	Christmas Lesson - Jesus is Born for Us	Luke 2:1-20

Sunday School is part of our children's ministry and is supported by the congregation. However, we do receive an offering at each Sunday School opening to remind us that all we have is a gift from God. Each year, Sunday School offerings are designated to a mission serving children. This year once again our offerings are being sent to Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church, Airdrie, for their children's programs. Offering envelopes are available from Deaconess Miriam.

MOMS & TOTS

Mothers of infants and toddlers...

Mothers of infants and toddlers...



Our regular schedule resumed in September.

Moms and their children not yet in school are invited to join us for a short Bible study, prayer and fellowship the first and third Thursdays of the month, from **9:30-11:00 am (please note the time change!)**. Mark your calendars for **November 1st and 15th and December 6th and 20th**. Our current study is entitled *"The Beauty of Holiness"*.

LADIES' BIBLE STUDY

Ladies, you are invited to join us for Bible study and snacks at 7:30 pm the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month. We are studying the minor prophets, Hosea, Joel and Amos. Mark these dates on your calendar: **November 13th and 27th and December 11th**. We meet at Deaconess Miriam's home, 10122 Hidden Valley Dr NW. Please bring a small snack to share AND YOUR BIBLES!

CHILDREN'S CHOIR



Children's choir has begun again. We meet the second and fourth Thursdays of the month from 6:00 – 7:00 pm in the Fireside Room. Bring your children age 4-10 to spend some time in song. We have had some new voices join us this fall, and there is always room for more. We meet twice a month to learn a bit about music, learn how to use our voices, and most of all plant God's Word in our hearts through song. Please speak with Deaconess Miriam for more information or to register.

SATURDAY KIDS BIBLE CLUB!

Our next monthly KIDS BIBLE CLUB dates are Saturday, November 10th (note the date change) and Saturday, December 1st. This year our theme is **God's Great Gifts: Life to Eternal Life**. If you are interested in having your children join us for singing, a Bible lesson, crafts and games, please contact Deaconess Miriam to register your child age 4-10 years. Consider bringing a friend, or offer to volunteer!

Children & Family Ministry

ADVENT FAMILY FUN

The Foothills Family is invited to come **Friday, December 7th**, for some Advent fun. Come for a pot-blessing supper at 5:30 pm (bring a dish to share), and join in a family devotion, Advent crafts, and help set up and decorate the Christmas tree and sanctuary. See the sign-up sheet beside Deaconess Miriam's office.



Family Time Devotions

Take it Home!

Sunday, November 18th, 2018

9:15 am

At Foothills Lutheran Church

The daily rhythms of our lives - how we spend our time - teach our children what we are devoted to. Family devotions - regular time spent together with Jesus - keep Him at the centre of your home. At this session you will learn some tips for successfully incorporating family devotions into your regular routine.

Please bring your 3-year old so you can participate together. Join us at 9:00 am in the Sanctuary for Sunday School opening. Our session will begin in Room 3 right after our opening. Younger children are welcome to attend with you and older children may attend Sunday School during this time.

RSVP: miriam@foothillslutheran.com

Designed for children born in 2015 and their parents.

Many Joyful Notes from the Choir

Prepare!!! Prepare!!! Christmas is coming! Christmas is coming! That is our theme this season and we're looking forward to having you join us in our songs. Some past-choir members will remember some of these songs, and PLEASE, join us if you know them. This is such a joyful time as we think of family and friends and celebrating with them – not only in person, but in song also. If you would like to join us for this season, we meet every Wednesday night at 7:30 sharp in the choir loft. Do you have a favorite song that the choir has sung in the past and want to hear it again? Send me a note! For more info, please contact Christine Heumann at christineheumanncg@gmail.com or (403) 710-8347.



Passive Bottle Drive Aids Ukraine Orphanage

Thank you to those who contributed to my low-key Bottle Drive this year. Already, we have sent \$220 to a boys' orphanage in the Ukraine under the auspices of Canadian Lutheran World Relief.

The orphanage, in the eastern city of Dneiper, helps boys who arrive out of the rural areas, some fleeing the Russian army who have invaded that side of the country. We'll send off more funds in December to help these destitute boys with their Christmas.

My political friend and volunteer, Nick Boots, was born in that city. He knows of the exact orphanage. He immigrated to Canada with his parents 14 years ago. Many of you know Nick who comes to Foothills occasionally.

Thanks again to those who have offered up their Empties, including Rod & Shelley Haas, Art Hanger, Pastor David & Brenda Bode, John Weissenberger, Stephen & Laureen Harper, and Cam & Helga Schneider.

- by Mark Kihn, Evangelism/Outreach Committee

A Peek Into Our Preschool

Part of the preschool experience is learning to use our words instead of tears and/or our hands (e.g. pushing) to communicate our feelings and requests. The beginning of a new school year is always noisy and busy in our classroom, since for many children, this is the first experience of a structured environment away from home, unaccompanied by a parent. Since our preschool families come from a variety of cultures, parenting styles differ. In some cultures, parents do everything for their child. In other cultures, children have few boundaries. The number of children in a home makes a difference as some homes have only one child so learning to take turns is something very new in a class setting, but other children come from a larger family so perhaps it is just learning to interact with peers who may not always let them win, that is the challenge. Although each of us in our preschool classroom are different and unique, we talk about being friends and being kind. We model using kind words in our preschool classroom, like “please”, “thank you”, “I’m sorry, and “I forgive you”. For some children it might be using the



English equivalent for those words. We talk, read, and experience what goes into being a good friend as we encourage empathy in children who are just beginning to be developmentally capable.

Words are powerful and important. Our preschool students learned that God made the world just using His words. We learned that He said, “It is good”. The children have been periodically working on a coloring page for each of the days of creation and for the seventh day as well. By the time you read this, their booklets will be completed and sent home so they can share how God made the world with others in their family. Words at the bottom of each page, roll out the account for parents, grandparents, or older siblings in the home as the booklet is shared.

As we share God’s word in the classroom with the children, we trust in His promise that His word will not return empty.

Respectfully submitted by Betty Ann Chandler

Silver Saints

Thank You to:

Ruth & Gunter Mackelburger for arranging for the Octoberfest Lunch at the Austrian Canadian Club.

Mark Kihn and his “Tales of Cycling in the US Midwest”.

Phil and Cheryl Lemke for sharing their experiences when they lived in Russia.

The following activities will complete our events to the end of 2018:

November 14 Remembrance Day Talk & Display
Presented by Brian Printz

November 28 Afternoon Social with Games & Visiting
Hosted by Vi & Otto Dusterhoft

December 12 Christmas Dinner
Hosted by Vi & Otto Dusterhoft

December Mission of the Month

Robert Ohlinger Scholarship Fund

The Robert Ohlinger Scholarship Fund was set up to assist Foothills Lutheran members who are studying to go into professional church work. It is administered by the Board of Elders of Foothills Lutheran Church. The fund was initiated by donations in memory of Robert Ohlinger, the oldest son of our Pastor Emeritus, Eldon Ohlinger. Robert was struck and killed by a car in May 1975 at the age of 14 as he was walking home from a school band activity. Robert played clarinet, bass clarinet, piano and guitar. He enjoyed using his musical gifts as one of FLC’s musicians for Sunday morning folk services.

Board of Fellowship

Past Events

Confirmation Dinner

On Thursday October 25, we hosted a dinner for confirmands Gage, Brice, McKenna, Siddaly, Joshua, Paul, Carter, Mikkel and Matthew to celebrate their upcoming confirmation. The confirmands and their families were joined by the Ministry staff, the Board of Education Chairs, Elders representative. A **BIG THANK YOU** to Nora, Henry and Goodluck for preparing and serving the lovely meal and Simone and Matthew for help with the clean-up.



Continuing Events

We are blessed to have the following teams provide coffee, tea and a little treat to welcome us on Sunday mornings. If you are interested in joining a team, please contact Belinda Perrin at (403) 239-9100 or Belindaperrin@gmail.com



Coffee Teams

- Team 1 Mark Kihn, Art Hanger, Kim Harvey, Alice Churney, Ron & Diane Voss and Liane Voss -Roper
- Team 2 Anni & Brad Adams, Elfrieda Stewart, Jan Geggie, and Marilyn Harrison
- Team 3 Elise Glans, Vi & Otto Dusterhoft and Anne Marie Kothari
- Team 4 Pat & Lorne, Kristy & Kellen Rosenau and Lucy Oberhammer
- Team 5 Tracy & Tim Roth and Jay & Kim Anderson
- Team 6 Belinda & Dave Perrin, Herb & Jane Gurski and Brenda Bode
- Team 7 Ingrid Kubke and Robert Kubke
- Team 8 Shirley & Carl Berdahl, Ellen Wagner and Cheryl Lemke
- Team 9 Heather Sommers, Warren Kee, Merv and Kareen Borgeson
- Team 10 Carol & Lloyd Sandau, Joan & Tom Copeland and Bob & Elsie Will

Upcoming Events

Pastor Appreciation



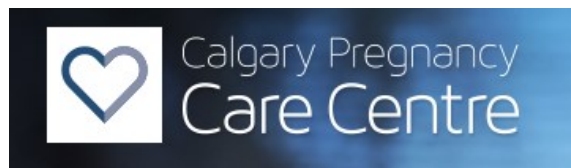
Let's show our appreciation for our ministry staff at Foothills all year round but a special pie fellowship after the November 11th service will be held to recognize them.

Advent Soup Suppers

Do you enjoy making soup? Sign up on the bulletin board for the Wednesday, Advent suppers starting in November. Fill your soul and your body



Blessings,
Heather Sommers



On behalf of the Calgary Pregnancy Care Center, I would like to say thank you to the FLC members who contributed to the Baby Bottle Campaign. Together we raised almost \$1,800, a 52% increase from last year, to support programs for men and women facing unplanned pregnancy, abstinence school programs and post-abortion support.

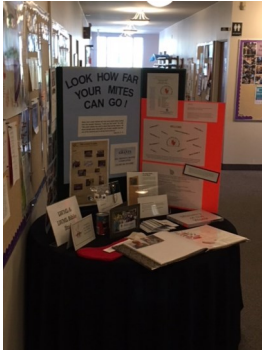
To celebrate, the Center is looking for the following donations to make Christmas a little brighter. Donations can be given to Heather Sommers or dropped off at the FLC office during the month of November.

- ★ Nice journals
- ★ Picture frames
- ★ Bath and body products for Moms
- ★ Baby items, toys and clothing (12 months and younger)

Blessings,
Heather Sommers

Board of Stewardship

The Board of Stewardship reminds you to complete and return your purple time and talent survey no later than October 31st. Please place your complete survey in Jay Anderson's mail box or place it in the offering plate in an envelope.



During the week of October 14th, FLC's Ministry of the Week was the Lutheran Women's Missionary League – Canada. Below is a picture of the service table in the narthex last Sunday which was effectively used to communicate the various activities of the LWML.

Respectfully submitted,
Jay Anderson

Library News

We're continuing to work on streamlining the library collection as we make room for many new books and resources. This is an ongoing process over several months - please drop in before or after services on Sunday or when you're at the church during the week to chat and to have a look at what's available. Borrowing materials is very easy - just sign your name and phone number on the card in the back of the book, leave the card in the labelled basket on the desk and voila, it's done. The loan period is four weeks and bookmarks for noting the return date will soon be available at the desk. And if you find any books at your home that you've borrowed, even quite some time ago, from Foothills Church Library, please feel free to return them at any time - no overdue fines here!

In the Children's section, look for the red basket containing Advent/Christmas/Epiphany books. And the current Arch books are in two separate baskets, Old Testament and New Testament.

The Library Information binder has listings of most items on the shelves, sorted by Author, Title, and Subject. And please don't hesitate to ask for resources on any particular subject - we may be able to pull out additional items for you.

We're currently working on series lists for many of the fiction books according to author - again, we'd be pleased to help you find what you need.

Watch for notices in the weekly bulletin about Library events and featured resources.

Dianne Frayne

LWML-Canada

Past Events

LWMLC Sunday

October 14, 2018

Thank you for your support of our mission initiatives: your prayers, your financial contributions and your material contributions such as used eyeglasses for people with vision problems throughout the world. Thanks also to all of you who contributed food for coffee time.

Upcoming Events

All ladies are invited to all meetings and events!

Saturday Morning Ladies' Bible Study

November 10 & December 1, 2018 9:30 a.m.

(Held in conjunction with Men's Breakfast Bible Study and Kids' Bible Club.)

Current Topic: Women in the Bible

Bible Study Leader: Brenda Bode

Foothills Lutheran Society Meeting

Monday, November 26, 2018

Noon: Bring your own lunch and enjoy the fellowship.

12:30 – 1:15: Business Meeting

1:15 – 2:30: Bible Study

Advent Tea at Foothills Manor

Friday, November 30, 2018 2:00 p.m.

Join us as we bring in the Christmas season with the residents of Foothills Manor!

We'll have a sing-a-long and enjoy Christmas refreshments.

ABC District Convention

June 20 – 22, 2019

District conventions are held every three years and next year the South Alberta Zone will be hosting ladies from throughout Alberta and British Columbia at the Coast Plaza Hotel and Conference Centre in Calgary. There are many ways in which you can become involved as we prepare for this exciting event. Watch for announcements!

Operation Christmas Child



Operation Christmas Child is an outreach project of Samaritan's Purse to children around the world who are poverty stricken or in war-torn countries. They send shoeboxes of hygiene, small toys and other items as well as sharing the gospel message. Shoeboxes and brochures are available on the table beside Pastor Eric's office. Completed shoeboxes can be left on the table on or before November 11th.

Upcoming Youth Events

Youth group, or LYF (Lutheran Youth at Foothills), is for youth in grades 7 to 12, and usually meets every other Friday from 7 to 10 pm. Bring your friends! We also meet every Sunday during the school year at 9 am for Bible study in the youth room (except for long weekends and the Sunday between Christmas and New Year's). The youth leaders are Pastor Eric and Kayla, and Trevor and Michelle Heumann, with help from Deaconess Miriam. Talk to any of us if you have questions! Stay connected with youth news by joining the youth Snapchat (talk to Kayla or Michelle to join), giving Pastor Eric your email address, or joining the Facebook group!

www.facebook.com/groups/foothillslutheranyouth/

November 2 at 7 pm to noon on November 4:

Every fall we have a youth retreat here at Foothills and invite other churches to join us. This year's theme is "The Best Defense", based on 1 Peter 3:15, and Pastor Eric is the speaker. The registration deadline was October 23.

November 16: Mustard Seed Sorting Centre

We'll meet at the church and head to the Mustard Seed to help them in their warehouse facility where they organize donated materials. Watch for an announcement about what time to meet at the church.

Saturday, December 1: Shine FM & Calgary Hitmen's Christmas Miracles Night

Tickets are \$15, and the game (Calgary vs Edmonton!) starts at 7pm. We'll meet at Brentwood station at 5:45 and leave by 6pm. RSVP to Pastor Eric by November 11 so we can order tickets. Bring your skates for after the game, one of the few times the public gets to skate at the Saddledome!

December 14: Christmas Caroling

Our annual tradition continues! We'll meet at the church around 6ish pm to organize into groups and go out to share some Christmas music with our homebound members.

2019's first youth event will be on January 11, and save the date for the **National Youth Gathering** next summer, which will be **July 5-9, 2019**, in Langley, BC. Registration information will be circulated later in November.



A big project this fall is our Purdy's fundraiser, and we'd like everyone's support in fundraising for youth group trips like the 2019 National Youth Gathering in Langley. Purdy's has a great selection of Christmas goodies, boxed chocolates, and sugar-free chocolate, and you can use the Purdy's brochure (available on the Information Centre) or the Purdy's website to ask neighbors, extended family, and colleagues to support Foothills Lutheran Youth.

The details:

- Give paper order forms and cheques (payable to Foothills Lutheran Youth) to Michelle or order online by Nov. 25
- Pick up your order on Sunday, December 9
- To order online with a credit card: <https://fundraising.purdys.com/26420-55996>
- You are responsible for making sure that people you invite to order either come to the church to pick up their orders, or for delivering orders to them yourself.

As a group, all our orders combined must total at least \$1,000.00 or we will not qualify for the Purdy's program. Purdy's will provide us with 25% of the sales.

Please let Michelle know if you're able to help by:

- Manning a table in the narthex after worship on November 18
- Distributing orders as people pick them up after church on December 9

Board of Christian Education and Young People's Ministry



“Teach...that the next generation may set their hope in God” – Psalm 78

On September 9, we had our annual **Rally Sunday**, which kicks off the new Christian Education year, and Sunday school and Bible studies have started back up. Keep an eye out for announcements on which studies are available and sign up for one, or contact the church staff for more details. There are opportunities for everyone, on almost every day of the week, so please join us to study God's Word and fellowship with our fellow brothers and sisters in Christ.

Nine young people were **confirmed** on October 28! This isn't the end of their Christian education, but rather the beginning of a new stage of it, as they move from Sunday morning confirmation classes into youth Bible study. Please keep them in your prayers as their faith continues to grow!

Check out the **Creation Ministries resources** in the brochure rack above the guest book! If there's something you'd like to know more about, let us know! We'll be restocking our CMI resources in the new year, so now is the time to put in your requests.

We are making plans for the **third annual Lent Bible** study for our church leaders, including the PPC and their board members and Sunday school and Bible study teachers and leaders. It will start on March 11, and leaders will get an email with more details early in the new year.

Plans are also underway for a **special event** with a speaker sometime next year. If there's a topic you'd like to attend a Bible study on or bring in a speaker to present on, contact someone on the board about it! If we know you're wondering about something, we can try to equip you with the answers you need!

Next summer our youth group will be attending the **National Youth Gathering** in Langley, which is attended by youth from across the synod. We're hoping to send about twenty youth as well as four leaders, and Pastor Eric and Michelle are both leading breakout sessions. The trip to this five-day conference can be quite expensive, and for this reason the youth group is November's mission of the month. See page ____ for more information.

Have you joined the private Facebook group for Foothills members?



www.facebook.com/groups/flcchristianed/

The Best Defense: Thank you to everyone who participated in the **NINETH annual fall youth retreat!** We have a great committee (Heather Graham-Navis, Trevor & Michelle Heumann, Pastor Eric & Kayla, Monica Schultz, and Deaconess Miriam), and we're very thankful for Christine Heumann and those who help her in the kitchen, as well as all the youth and leaders who came (about 40 people in total). This year, for the first time, one of our own was the speaker, and Pastor Eric did an excellent job with the main sessions. Our chaplain was Vicar Mark Rekken, and he led the group in Evening and Morning Prayer, accompanied by the music team, which was made up of committee members, with the very welcome addition of Kaitlin Schmitz. Also thanks to Amy Scheetz for volunteering as an iBod, and to Bruce Winstanley for teaching the youth some self-defense. The theme verse is from 1 Peter 3:15: “always being prepared to make a DEFENSE to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you,” and Pastor Eric's sessions and the accompanying Bible studies (written by Miriam) equipped the youth to be able to give a defense to those who would question their faith. Watch for announcement in early in the new year about our plans for November 2019!

“Shall We Gather at the Gathering?”

An excerpt from *THE CANADIAN LUTHERAN* September/October 2018

I'll be honest and upfront: I was troubled by the article “Shall we gather at the Gathering?” (March/April 2018). In these days of synodical restructuring, I feel it is incredibly important that we choose to band together to strengthen our church body. And yet, the article in question puts forth The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod national youth gatherings and Higher Things gatherings as equal options to our own synodical gatherings. Actually, the article seems to promote Higher Things, as it gives a much more detailed account as to what goes on at Higher Things gatherings then what goes on at our own.

I have been involved in youth retreats and gatherings since I attended my first Lutheran Church—Canada National Youth Gathering (NYG) in Vancouver in 2001. It was the first time that I began to understand that I was part of a much larger church body here in Canada, and it was the first time that I realized our church body is awesome. I have met people at the National and District Youth Gatherings that have gone on to be lifelong friends, mentors, and, yes, even my wife. When I left Ontario and moved to Alberta to attend university at 17, I was amazed at how many people I already knew because I met them at one of our own gatherings. Since then I have attended all of our NYGs and a fair number of East District and ABC District Youth Gatherings (DYG), and have been blessed to find myself on the planning committees for local and DYG committees.

Our NYGs, DYGs, and our own local youth retreats are not only vitally important to the lives of our youth but to the life of our church. We are doing our church a disservice by not supporting its youth gatherings. And if you have concerns or hesitations about our own gatherings, get involved. Contact your NYG or DYG chair and be a part of a committee. Let's make our youth gatherings the best that they can be, together.

We are already a church fractured and splintered. We are far stronger together. Our youth are far stronger together.

Synod means to “walk together.” In these days we need to stop treating “synod” as a noun, and begin treating it as a verb. It's not just something we say, it's something we do. Or at least it should be.

Rev. Eric Moffett - Foothills Lutheran Church, Calgary Co-Chair, ABC District Youth Gathering

A Brave Journey: from the Sudan to Canada

“For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me.” (Matthew 25: 35)

Our hearts are filled with gratitude and faith reporting that the Calgary Circuit LCC sponsored refugee family from the Sudan is making good progress adjusting to their new home in Canada. Eighteen weeks in Calgary, since arriving on 31 May, has seen the Ibrahims settle into a busy and focused routine. Both parents, Rabie and Faiza, and the children, Esam and Awadia, attend ESL classes daily. Their English is improving gradually; public transit is no longer a daunting prospect and they are able to complete grocery shopping confidently, including an occasional mission to Costco. The father, Rabie, does a great job looking after finances and banking; to be sure, the family continues to be amazed at the expensive cost of living in Calgary!

Circuit committee members have been focused on providing assistance navigating the bureaucracy of Service Canada. We have attended many medical and dental appointments for the family, having secured Arabic speaking practitioners. The staff at the Calgary Centre for Newcomers have been extremely helpful in providing comprehensive support services. Esam and Awadia enjoy making use of the great facilities at the Village Square Leisure Centre in NE Calgary. Indeed, the journey has been akin to “drinking from a fire hydrant” in terms of learning the range of Canadian norms and practices.

The Project Committee extends a standing appeal for donations of gift cards in favour of the Superstore, Walmart or Mark's Work Wearhouse. And, of course, if you'd like to make a monetary donation, please indicate Refugee Sponsorship on the envelope c/o Foothills Lutheran Church.

Our family is genuinely grateful for their chance at a new life in Calgary! We need to embrace the teaching of Jesus in the scripture cited above. In His service, thank you for your generosity in helping to spread the love of God to our neighbours.

Submitted 19 Oct 18 by Theo Dillenberg
St. Matthew Lutheran Church



I along with Diane and Liane (the latter two sharing time to babysit Eliana) attended Creation Ministry International's Western Canada Conference, Oct. 12–13 in Red Deer. The conference had one primary message for the 200 people in attendance: trust God's Word from the very first verse.

Thomas Bailey, who works full-time at CMI-Canada as a speaker and event planner, started the conference off speaking on the topic, "How Do You Know? Who Was There".

Speaker Dr. Carl Werner received his doctoral degree in medicine at the age of 23 and practices family medicine in St Louis. He, along with his wife, Debbie, travelled to seven countries to visit museums and fossil dig sites and interview fossil experts to author *Evolution: The Grand Experiment Vol. 1* and *Living Fossils; Evolution the Grand Experiment Vol. 2*.

While one is told that the fossil record 'screams evolution', it is anything but. Fossils of modern animals still in existence today have been found in the presence of dinosaur fossils. However, evolutionists are "brutally dishonest" in that they try to hide this fact by changing the genus names of these fossils to maintain the illusion of evolution. His final illuminating talk on Human Evolution traced the attempts over the 100 year period from the time of Darwin in 1859 to prop up the notion of missing links (ape to man intermediates) in supposed human evolution. All of the proposed intermediates over the course of time (sometimes decades), were debunked and shown, for example, to be based upon the single tooth of an extinct pig (Nebraska Man), another being an outright hoax where parts of a human skull and modified ape skull were cobbled together (Piltdown Man), and many ultimately deemed to be fossils of apes or humans (Neanderthal Man).

Dr. Lainna Callentine, a pediatrician, and founder of Sciexpereience (<https://sciexpereience.com>), which exists to help others experience God's creation through science, in four sessions on the eyes, circulatory system, respiratory system and nervous system showed how we are fearfully and wonderfully made by our Creator God.

Dr. Mark Harwood, speaker and scientist with CMI-Australia, spoke on "Going Where the Evidence Leads" and "Keys to the Cosmos". He first pointed out that according to one of the leading Christian apologists, Nancy Pearcey, studies find that the main reason people abandon their Christian upbringing is unanswered intellectual questions. He was able to make a relatively complex subject, the origin of the cosmos, understandable, whether as result of a naturalistic process, the Big Bang whereby nothing exploded and created everything or God spoke and it was so. He counselled that to get answers to the question of origins, we need to look in the Book; not in the Box of the Universe.

The conference concluded on Saturday evening with Richard Fangrad, CEO of CMI-Canada, speaking on "Evolution and

the Bible". He examined how BioLogos, an organization promoting the notion of theistic evolution, that is, God used an evolutionary process over billions of years, stacked up with respect to twelve questions related to positions held by BioLogos:

1. Does the Genesis creation account describe an evolutionary process?
2. Can the Genesis days be long periods to allow for evolution?
3. Is Genesis poetry?
4. Did key church figures (*including Luther*) understand that Genesis described evolution?
5. Was Jesus wrong?
6. Do theistic evolutionists have a high view of Scripture?
7. Is theistic evolution compatible with the Gospel?
8. Does promoting theistic evolution help evangelism?
9. Does rejecting evolution mean rejecting science?
10. But doesn't scientific observation support evolution?
11. Isn't evolution required to do science?
12. Why do people want to fit evolution into the Bible?

As he addressed each question in turn, he showed that BioLogos failed miserably with respect to all twelve.

Respectfully submitted,
Ron Voss

Attack on Alberta Christian Schools and Our Fundamental Freedoms

It was recently announced that private (primarily Christian) schools will face defunding and accreditation loss if they do not remove many of their core religious beliefs from their Safe and Caring policies. This is being done because it is said these policies do not foster a "welcoming, caring, respectful and safe learning environment." Among those "unacceptable" beliefs are:

- Stating that the school's academic instruction is based on the "unchangeable and infallible word of God."
- "God created mankind as male and female, equal in dignity and worth, yet distinct and with complementary roles."
- "The school's teachers and staff need not teach ethics or religious doctrines that are contrary to the school community's faith/value commitments in a way that portrays them as equally credible or worthy of belief."
- "... the above doctrines will be taught as truth in our school."

Some sources for further information:

- Parents for Choice in Education (www.parentchoice.ca)
- Corbella: NDP's attack on religious schools violates the Charter, *Calgary Herald*, October 3, 2018: <https://calgaryherald.com/news/local-news/corbella-ndps-attack-on-religious-schools-violates-the-charter>
- John Carpay and the Justice Center for Constitutional Freedoms (<https://www.jccf.ca>). "Alberta Government demands that independent schools renounce their religious policies": <https://www.jccf.ca/alberta-government-demands-that-independent-schools-renounce-their-religious-policies>